

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00692 280912Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-01 EB-04 INR-05 SS-14 SP-02 /034 W
-----008061 280953Z /14 R

R 271210Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3665

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 692

LIMDIS
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAPTION CHANGE)
DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, QA
SUBJECT: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION OF HOLCAR ACTIVITIES--
INFORMING GOQ (GOVERNMENT OF QATAR)

REF: (A) STATE 118520 (B) STATE 115511

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM ANOTHER EMBASSY IN DOHA A COPY OF AN APRIL 18 ATLANTA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE WHICH OUTLINES HOLCAR OIL CO. BANKING DIFFICULTIES IN GEORGIA AND TIES THOSE PROBLEMS TO HOLCAR'S OPERATIONS IN QATAR. WE MUST ASSUME THAT GOQ IS FOLLOWING OR, AT LEAST, AWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. ON THE THEORY THAT HAVING THE GOQ HEAR IT FROM US IS BETTER THAN READING IT IN THE PRESS, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO PROVIDE GOQ MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION OF HOLCAR.

2. WE SPECIFICALLY PROPOSE TO INFORM DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS, ABDULLAH SALLAT OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING HOLCAR'S ACTIVITIES;

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(B) THAT PART OF THE INVESTIGATION CONCERNS THE FIRM'S ACTIVITIES IN QATAR;

(C) THAT PART OF THE INVESTIGATION CENTERS ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN OFFICIAL OF THE GOQ RECEIVED MONEY IN RETURN FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF HOLCAR'S APPLICATION FOR A CONCESSIONARY AGREEMENT WITH THE GOQ.

3. WE DO NOT, RPT NOT INTEND AT THIS TIME TO GO INTO DETAIL ON THE ALLEGED PAY-OFF NOR TO PROVIDE NAMES OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS. WE ALSO DO NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE EMBASSY'S ROLE IN PROVIDING INFORMATION WHICH LED TO THE INVESTIGATION OR ON THE PROCEDURE INVOLVED IN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATIONS.

4. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE DIRECTOR MAY WISH US TO CONVEY THE INFORMATION IN PARA 2 ABOVE DIRECTLY TO MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL-THANI. IF THIS IS THE CASE, WE PROPOSE TO DO SO. WITH THIN IN MIND WE REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT INFORM EMBASSY OF ITS APPROVAL (OR DISAPPROVAL) OF OUR PROPOSAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH MR. SALLAT AND POSSIBLY WITH SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ ON THIS MATTER BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE JUNE OPEC MEETING.

KILLGORE

NOTE:STADIS CAPTION DELETED;HANDLE AS LIMDIS PER DOHA SVC

280840Z.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 may 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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